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Letters To The Editor

Thank You From The Shorter Family

As we approach Thanksgiving Day, the Edward Shorter Family has an abundance of blessings for which to be thankful.

We are overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and concern shown for our family during Rita's extended stay in the hospital and since her return home.

We appreciate the flowers, gifts, cards, prayer cards and love gifts which were sent to Rita.

We are grateful to those persons who gave of their time to provide transportation for Edward and Randy when they came to visit at the hospital, for the meals which were prepared and brought to them, and for those who helped in our store during our time of crisis.

To the individuals, churches, schools, organizations and businesses who saw fit to establish and contribute to the Rita Shorter Fund, we thank you.

Our special thanks to the ministers who came to visit Rita and for the prayers that were lifted on her behalf. Indeed, we felt and experienced the prayer as we saw the beautiful progress toward her recovery being made.

As we have seen the miracle of love showering our lives by concerned friends, we have also seen the miracle of a renewed life made possible by the healing hand of the Lord as He saw fit to restore Rita's health.

A Happy Thanksgiving to each of you, and a big "Thank You" for showing us in so many ways that you care.

Edward, Irene, Rita and
Randy Shorter
Madisonville, Va.
11-23-1p

P. O. Box 505
Chase City, Virginia 23924
November 20, 1978

Dear Editor:

Many know that we had at least two principal "first" English speaking Thanksgivings in America: The first being actually at Berkeley Hundred near Jamestown and Williamsburg, Virginia in 1619 and the second in Massachusetts in 1621. One major difference was that the Virginians observed a Thanksgiving almost immediately upon their arrival. On the other hand the New England Colonists apparently waited until after they had had a successful harvest before they held their Thanksgiving.

It matters not so much as to which Thanksgiving happened first, but that all of us attempt to observe a happy and meaningful Thanksgiving together.

Yours sincerely,
Shelton H. Short, III
(Director and a former
Vice President
Virginia Thanksgiving Festival, Inc.)
(Telephone 804-644-1963

Adjust Water Heater Thermostat

BLACKSBURG - "Turning down the thermostat on hot water heaters can save at least $20 a year," Harold A. Hughes, Virginia Tech Extension specialist in agricultural engineering said.

The higher the temperature inside a water heater, the more heat is lost through the walls of the tank.

"A thermostat setting of 110-120 degrees Fahrenheit (43-48 Celsius) should be sufficient if you don't have an automatic dishwasher," the Tech faculty member said.

"A setting of 140 degrees Fahrenheit (60 Celsius) is recommended when there is an automatic dishwasher. Temperatures over 140 degrees Fahrenehit (60 Celsius) shorten the life of a glass-lined tank," he added.

The Pastor Speaks

LIFE'S PAINFUL SEPARATIONS

Old "Red" died when I was twelve years old. He was my favorite dog. One of my closest friends in high school died of leukemia. My father-in-law, who was also a very close friend, died four years ago from lung cancer. All of these losses are painful memories for me. Life changed in each instance.

Death has a certain scarring quality about it. Death is something like a rip in fine piece of cloth which, when sewn together, still leaves a visible scar. And scars hardly ever fade away; instead they become a part of us. Painful separations are experiences we must learn to live with.

Most of us know what it feels like to lose someone or something dear to us. If you haven't, you will. The symphony of death plays on and on. Death comes to the national hero, to those who live in obscure towns, and to a child's pet kitty. And it hurts.

There are other painful separations we face throughout life. Many high school students experience a lump in the throat on graduation day. To move from your old home to a new town has its pains, also. Divorce creates grief for those who experience the agony of an ended relationship. There is also the deep sense of loss that one feels when they retire from the place they have invested their life working. Then there is the loss of health, decreasing energies, an acute awareness that life is winding down.

How shall we face these painful separations? Is there a way to swallow the bitter dregs of loss and grief? There is no pill on the market that will cure the hurt that comes from life's painful seprations. Certain prescriptions may settle our nerves or enable us to sleep, but when they wear off the reality and pain are still there.

Some persons try to deny the loss and convince themselves and others that nothing has really happened. We know, however, that balloons do not remain aloft forever. Something always comes along to remind us that we are not facing the truth. The problem with denial is that when the balloon is punctured the fall may prove to be crippling.

There are several things we can do to help us better deal with our losses throughout life. First, its alright to cry. God created both men and women with tear ducts. Don't be ashamed to use them! Secondly, talk about your loss and your hurt. It helps to bear our souls with someone we trust to handle our feelings. Personal sharing can connect the loose ends of life's severe losses, so that we can pick up the pieces and move on. It is comforting to have someone to walk with us through life's trails. Thirdly, we can trust God to bring us through. Christ is our companion in dark nights and dull days. The Psalmist has written, "I will lift my eyes toward the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord . . ."

Rev. Bill Trimyer
Elon Baptist Church,
Pamplin, Va.

Food Gift "Wrap"

Save your coffee cans; just a bit of stick-on paper will make them attractive receptacles for gift candies, cookies and other holiday goodies.

THE BIBLE SPEAKS

BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

COMMON DENOMINATOR

Lesson for November 26, 1978

Background Scripture:
Leviticus 19:33,34;
Deuteronomy 6:1-9;
Matthew 22:34-40;
Luke 10:29-37.
Devotional Reading:
John 15:12-17.

"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?"

That was one way of putting it (the Pharisee to Jesus), but there are others. For example: "Sum up for me the meaning of Christianity in a nutshell." or "When you put all this together, what's the bottom line?"

Rev. Althouse

No matter how you ask the question, the response Jesus gave is the one eternal answer: "You shall love the Lord you God with all you heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind... And... you shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:37-39). This was the very heart of his message. He was convinced that "on these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets".

Hear, O Israel!

The first part of Jesus' summary comes from the Shema, the basic creed of all Judaism: "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God is one Lord; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and all your soul, and with all your might" (Deuteronomy 6:4,5). Almost anyone would have cited that passage in answer to the Pharisee's question. The oneness of God and his command for uncompromising love was recognized as the keystone of Hebrew religion.

The second part of Jesus' answer was also drawn from the scriptures, but it was a passage that not all of Jesus' contemporaries would have chosen: "...you shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Leviticus 19:18). Jesus chose these words from a passage in the ancient book of Leviticus that dwelt at great length upon the Hebrew's relationships with his neighbor, as well as the sojourner. In Leviticus 19 are explicit instructions for taking care of needy neighbors, for refraining from lying and stealing from him, from oppressing the handicapped, and to avoid both hatred and vengeance. This loving concern was to be extended not only to fellow Hebrews, but also to outsiders: "The sojourner who sojourns among you shall be to you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself" (19:34).

Do This And Live

This summer I had to give two addresses, one on Hinduism and the ober on Buddhism. In doing my research for these I came to the realization that, despite the widely divergent ways in which the different religions speak, all of them are actually founded on the primacy of love, both Divine and human. True, the devotees of these religions may not manifest this in their lives (just as Christians often do not) and the essential message may be overlaid with layers of irrelevant tradition, dogma and ritual, but if one wants to know what lies behind all that and what the religion was intended to express, it becomes evident that throughout the world the highest common spiritual denominator is LOVE — the love of God for his children, the love of his children for each other.

(Based on outlines copyrighted by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Released by Community Press Service.)

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1978

CHARLOTTE C. H., VIRGINIA 10:00 A. M. (On the Premises)

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TRACT NO. V — 166 Acres less 3 Acres and Home. To be offered separately and with home tract! This tract has approx. 104 acres of Prime Farm Land with several good streams. Practically New Cattle Barn and Dark Tobacco Barn! A good portion fenced and cross fenced. 56 acres grain allotment. Excellent Road Frontage of 3/10 Mile on Route 649 and approx. 8/10 Mile road frontage on both sides of Route 650!

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